

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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|----------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| COUNTRY        | Italy/Egypt                                    | REPORT NO.      | CS-7845       |
| SUBJECT        | Prospective Purchase by Egypt of Arms in Italy | DATE DISTR.     | 30 April 1953 |
|                |  | NO. OF PAGES    | 2             |
| DATE OF INFO.  | Prior to 7 November 1952                       | REQUIREMENT NO. | RD            |
| PLACE ACQUIRED | [ ] (early December 1952)                      | REFERENCES      |               |

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: An individual with good contacts in Italian Commercial circles (B).  
Appraisal of content: 3.

1. Acting through a certain Hasset (fnu), who is described as a technical consultant to Prime Minister Najib, Egypt is negotiating with an unidentified Italian firm,<sup>1</sup> located at 20 Viale Majno in Milan, for the purchase of a substantial amount of arms, the value of which is in the amount of several billions of lire. Such arms include: machine guns of 127-20 and 40 mm, and cannons of 90-105 mm. and 88 Skoda.
2. Hasset has been carrying on negotiations through a certain Beissner (fnu)<sup>2</sup> who wrote the owner of the above mentioned firm in Milan, advising the latter of his forthcoming trip to Italy. Beissner also mentioned that he had conferred with Najib on 2 October 1952, concerning the deal and hoped to conclude it satisfactorily through Spain, if the Americans did not object.
3. Also, reportedly involved in the transaction is an unidentified Bremen firm (Germany) which employs a certain Beckroege (fnu)<sup>3</sup> and a certain Kaussel (fnu).

Washington Comments.

1. The Milan telephone directory (1951-1952) reflects only the names of individuals at this address; no firm is apparently listed there. Thus, it is possible that an individual or individuals at the stated address are agents or representatives of a firm which is involved in the transaction, but which is not located at the stated address.
2. Our files indicate that Beissner may be identical with Willi Beissner who was involved with a firm in Munich, Germany, called "Omnia", reportedly a cover for French Intelligence activities. In another report, dated 10 March 1952, Beissner is reported to have left Germany in 1951, and to be in Cairo working for the French.
3. In a previous report, entitled: "Lists of Communists, Couriers, Propagandists, Terrorists, and Foreign Agents Subversively Active in Northwestern Germany," the name of Johann Beckroege is reflected under date of 9 July 1948. The report also stated:

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report also reflects that Beckroege was born on 27 March 1902 and resided at 18 Goslarerstr., Hastedt, Bremen.

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